

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A master set top terminal (STT), comprising:

a first tuner, configured to receive a first user input via a first interface, the first tuner further configured to, in response to receiving the first user input, tune a television signal from a received multiplexed signal, into a first tuned television signal;

a second tuner, configured to receive a second user input via a second interface, the second tuner further configured to, in response to receiving the second user input, tune the television signal from the received multiplexed signal, into a second tuned television signal, wherein the second tuner is configured as a dedicated tuner for providing at least one tuned signal for display at a second viewing device, the second viewing device being co-located with the master STT;

an encoder coupled to the first tuner and configured to receive the first tuned television signal, the encoder further configured to digitally encode the first tuned television ~~signal~~; signal as a first encoded signal;

a transmitter coupled to the encoder and configured to transmit the encoded signal to a remote STT to be displayed on a first viewing ~~device~~; device, wherein the transmitter is further configured to transmit the first encoded signal substantially simultaneously with a second encoded signal, the first encoded signal being encoded in a different format than the second encoded signal;

a receiver configured to receive a first control signal from the remote STT corresponding to a first user input;

a controller coupled to the receiver and configured to accept the first control signal from the receiver, the controller further configured to instruct the first tuner to change the first tuned television signal in response to the first control signal, such that the transmitter transmits a changed encoded signal to the remote STT for display on the first viewing device.

a Radio Frequency (RF) driver coupled to the second tuner, the RF driver configured to facilitate transmission of an independent signal to the second viewing device, the second viewing device being different than the first viewing device.

2. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 1, wherein the changed encoded signal is displayed at the first viewing device within two seconds from the remote STT receiving the user input.

3. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 2, wherein the changed encoded signal is displayed at the first viewing device within a half-second from the remote STT receiving the user input.

4. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 3, wherein the transmitter and receiver operate according to a wireline standard selected from at least one of the following: HomePlug and HomePNA.

5. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 2, wherein the transmitter and receiver operate according to a wireless standard selected from at least one of the following: IEEE 802.11a, IEEE 802.11b, IEEE 802.11g, Bluetooth 2.0, HomeRF 2.0, HiperLAN/2, and Ultra-Wideband standards.

6. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 5, wherein the video encoder uses a form of digital compression.

7. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 6, wherein the video encoder is selected from at least one of the following: Microsoft NetMeeting, Windows Media Player, and Real Player.

8. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 6, wherein the low latency between the reception of the first control signal and the transmission of the changed television signal is achieved by immediately encoding and transmitting a lower quality video signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 8, wherein a higher quality video signal is transmitted after a period during which the lower quality video signal is transmitted.

10. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 9, wherein the period of lower quality video transmission allows the higher quality video signal to be encoded for transmission.

11. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 9, wherein the encoding format includes at least one of the following: H.263, H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, low bit-rate MPEG-2, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

12. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 11, wherein the encoding format includes low bit-rate MPEG-2 and at least one of the following: H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

13. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 11, wherein the encoding format includes H.263 and at least one of the following: H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

14. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 11, wherein the transmitted signal includes an encoding parameter enabling the remote STT to decode the transmitted signal using multiple decoding algorithms according to the encoding parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 1, wherein the received multiplexed signal further comprises a program information component, and the master STT further comprises a program guide generator, configured to receive the program information from the received multiplexed signal and configured to generate a program guide therefrom that is transmitted by the transmitter upon a user request for the program guide at the remote STT.

16. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 1, wherein the master STT further comprises an internet connection, and the transmitter is capable of transmitting content derived from the internet connection to the remote STT.

17. (Currently Amended) A master set top terminal (STT), comprising:
a first tuner, configured to receive a first user input via a first interface, the first tuner further configured to, in response to receiving the first user input, tune a television signal from a

received multiplexed signal, into a first tuned television signal, wherein the first tuner is configured for providing at least one tuned signal for display at a first viewing device;

a second tuner, configured to receive a second user input via a second interface, the second tuner further configured to, in response to receiving the second user input, tune the television signal from the received multiplexed signal, into a second tuned television signal, wherein the second tuner is configured as a dedicated tuner for providing at least one tuned signal for display at a second viewing device, the second viewing device being co-located with the master STT;

a transmitter coupled to the first tuner and configured to transmit the first tuned digital television signal to a remote STT to be displayed on the first viewing device;

a receiver configured to receive a first control signal from the remote STT corresponding to a user input;

a controller coupled to the receiver and configured to accept the control signal from the receiver, the controller further configured to instruct the first tuner to change the first tuned television signal in response to the first control signal, such that the transmitter transmits the changed first tuned digital television signal to the remote STT for display on the viewing STT within two seconds from the remote STT receiving the user input; and

a Radio Frequency (RF) driver coupled to the second tuner, the RF driver configured to facilitate transmission of an independent signal to the second viewing device, the second viewing device being different than the first viewing ~~device~~. device.

wherein the transmitter is further configured to transmit a first encoded signal substantially simultaneously with a second encoded signal, the first encoded signal being encoded in a format different than the second encoded signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 17, wherein the changed tuned digital television signal is displayed on the first viewing device within a half-second from the user input being received at the remote STT.

19. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 17, wherein the tuned digital television signal is re-encoded at a lower bit-rate prior to being transmitted to the remote STT.

20. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 19, wherein the digital television signal includes an MPEG-2 signal at a 3Mbps bit-rate, and the re-encoded signal includes a lower quality video signal.

21. (Previously Presented) The master STT as defined in claim 20, wherein the re-encoding format is selected from at least one of the following: H.263 and low bit-rate MPEG-2.

22. – 51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A television distribution system comprising:

a remote set top terminal (STT) comprising:

a first receiver configured to receive an encoded video signal from a master STT;

a decoder coupled to the first receiver and configured to translate the encoded video signal into a decoded video signal suitable for a first viewing device;

a user interface configured to receive a first user input, the user interface further configured to convert the received first user input to a control signal;

a first transmitter coupled to the user interface and configured to send the control signal to the master STT to achieve a change in the encoded video signal;

the first receiver configured to receive a change in the encoded video signal responsive to the control signal, wherein the remote STT sends the change to the first viewing device within three seconds of the user input;

a master STT comprising:

a first tuner, configured to receive the first user input via a first interface, the first tuner further configured to, in response to receiving the first user input, tune a television signal from a received multiplexed signal, into a first tuned television signal;

a second tuner, configured to receive a second user input via a second interface, the second tuner further configured to, in response to receiving the second user input, tune a the television signal from the received multiplexed signal, into a second tuned television signal, wherein the second tuner is configured as a dedicated tuner for providing at least one tuned signal for display at a second viewing device, the second viewing device being co-located with the master STT;

an encoder coupled to the first tuner, the encoder configured to encode the first tuned television signal; signal as a first encoded signal;

a second transmitter coupled to the output of the encoder, and configured to transmit the first encoded signal to the remote STT; STT, the second transmitter further configured to transmit a second encoded signal to the remote STT substantially simultaneously with the first encoded signal, the first encoded signal being encoded in a format that is different than the format of the second encoded signal;

a second receiver configured to receive the control signal from the remote STT corresponding to the first user input;

a controller coupled to the receiver and configured to accept the control signal from the receiver, the controller further configured to instruct the first tuner to change the first tuned television signal in response to the control signal, such that the transmitter transmits a

changed encoded signal to the remote STT for display on the first viewing device within three seconds from the remote STT receiving the user input; and

a Radio Frequency (RF) driver coupled to the second tuner, the RF driver configured to facilitate transmission of an independent signal to the second viewing device, the second viewing device being different than the first viewing device.

53. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the response to the first user input is seen at the first viewing device within two seconds after the user input is received.

54. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 53, wherein the response to the first user input is seen at the first viewing device within a half-second after the user input is received.

55. (Original) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the video encoder uses a form of digital compression.

56. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 55, wherein the video encoder is selected from at least one of the following: Microsoft NetMeeting, Windows Media Player, and Real Player.

57. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 55, wherein the encoding format includes at least one of the following: H.263, H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, low bit-rate MPEG-2, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

58. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 57, wherein the encoding format includes H.263 and at least one of the following: H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, low bit-rate MPEG-2, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

59. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 57, wherein the encoding format includes low bit-rate MPEG-2 and at least one of the following: H.323, H.324, MPEG-1, MPEG-2 or MPEG-4.

60. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the multiplexed signal further comprises a broadcast file system signal, and the master STT further comprises a program guide generator, receiving the broadcast file system signal, compiling a database therefrom, and generating a program guide therefrom that can be viewed by the first viewing device upon a user request for the program guide at the remote STT.

61. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the remote STT further comprises a web browser, and the master STT comprises an internet connection coupled to the second transmitter, allowing the web browser to browse a plurality of websites.

62. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the remote STT further comprises an internet connection coupled to a web browser, allowing the remote STT to browse a plurality of websites.

63. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 52, wherein the master STT further comprises a web browser and an internet connection and is capable of transmitting an image of the web browser and website to the remote STT.

64. – 113. (Canceled)